(b) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange. These have been furthor consolidated in the new Export Import policy which *inter-alia* aims to promote productivity, modernisation and compititiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, continuous efforts are made to increase exports of Indian goods through steps such as participation in specialised fairs/exhibitions, organising buyer-seller meets, seminars and market surveys, holding of Joint Committee/ Commission meetings, execution of Trade Promotion Programmes with financial and technical assistance from European countries, dissemination of information on markets and trade laws in USA, ECM countries etc.

Lifting of restriction on import of passenger cars

3664. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed the restrictions on import of passenger cars and other vehicles;

(b) if so, what are the guidelines issued in the matter; and

(c) what is the likely loss of foreign exchange to be incurred under this scheme annually?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Under the Export & Import Policy 1992-97, the item "passenger cars and other vehicles" is covered by the Negative List of Imports. However, import of passenger cars and other vehicles is allowed without a licence by the categories of eligible importers. Details in this regard are contained in the Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 21-ITC (PN)/ 92-97 dt. 26.6.1992, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(c) The payment of the vehicle is made abroad and the import does not involve any remittance of foreign exchange from India. In fact, the custom duty leviable on import of the vehicles is also required to be paid in foreign exchange unless expressly exempted in the case in particular category of importers.

Talks with exporters on the issue of advance licences

3665. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making efforts to further streamline the issue of advance licences in consultation with exporters;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held with exporters to streamline the advance licence issue; and

(c) whether the exporters would be benefited as a result thereof and if so, to what extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is making efforts to further streamline the issue of advance licences in consultation with the exporters.

(b) Consequent to the dialogue held with a set of exporters, the value addition norms for the steel and other sectors have been revised and published vide Public Notice No. 29/(PN)/92-97 dt. 3-7-1992, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Exporters will decidedly be benefited by the revisions made. Review and streamlining of Export and Import Policy including the advance licensing scheme in consultation with the concerned Government Departments and trade and industry is a continuous process. The decisions taken on the basis of such consultations are notified from time to time.